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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1958

URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

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Medical Officer of Health

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Chairman of the Council: Councillor W. CALDWELL, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. G. CLARKE

Councillors: Miss GILLETT, L. COWLEY, C. PENDRED, E. R. STANIFORD.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. SEYMOUR, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

N. J. ADAMS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

May 15th, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The birth rate shows a slight rise on last year. There were actually 288 births as against 260 in 1957. This gives a satisfactory rate of 19.7 as against 16.4 for the rest of the country.

The death rate although slightly higher than the previous year remains at a satisfactory low level, being nearly four points lower than the country as a whole. Again heart diseases and cancer were the principal killers. They, together, accounted for 78 of the total of 116 deaths.

The infantile mortality rate is also at a satisfactory low level having dropped from 30.8 in 1957 to 10.4, less than half of the rate for the country.

In the realm of infectious diseases we had an epidemic of measles during the last quarter of the year. The large majority of cases were mild and were confined to the four to eight year-old age group.

With increased supplies of vaccine and the extension of the age groups to include all children between the ages of six months and 15 years an intensive programme of vaccination against poliomyelitis was carried out. In the month of June alone 110 sessions were held throughout the North Bucks area. Thirty of these were held in Bletchley, covering Bletchley itself and surrounding villages, and is the equivalent of approximately 2,500 "jabs". This achievement was only made possible by the great assistance given by our local General Practitioners. The percentage response of children in the age groups worked out at 75 per cent which was higher than the national average. Towards the end of the year the Minister extended the age group up to 25 but the response so far has been poor. This is a pity because although the incidence of the disease in these high age groups is not as great as in young children, paralysis when it does occur, tends to be much more severe.

I should like again to thank your Clerk, Mr. Sherwood, your Surveyor and Chief Health Inspector, Mr. Smithie, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

		1957	1958
Area (in acres)		4456	4456
Population		13730	14610
Number of Inhabited Houses		4214	4427
Rateable Value (1st April)		£193,819	£206,976
Rate per £1		20/-	22/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate		£807/11/7	£862/8/-
BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	Males	129	138
	Females	124	140
Illegitimate	Males	6	5
	Females	1	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ...		18.9	19.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—Bucks County		16.7	17.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—England and Wales		16.1	16.4
Still Births	Males	1	2
	Females	4	2
DEATHS:			
	Males	56	60
	Females	44	56
Death Rate per 1,000 Population ...		7.3	7.9
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—Bucks County		9.7	9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—England and Wales		11.5	11.7
Maternal Mortality		3.77	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and Wales		0.55	Nil
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County ...		0.47	0.43

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

	1957	1958
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	30.8	10.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	21.6	16.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	23.0	22.5

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	1957			1958		
	M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0	4	0	4
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	11	10	21	10	13	23
Leukaemia	0	0	0	2	0	2
Diabetes	1	1	2	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	3	10	13	3	9	12
Heart Disease	18	9	27	18	16	34
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	2	6	3	4	7
Influenza	1	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	4	5	4	3	7
Bronchitis	4	1	5	3	0	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	2	0	2
Nephritis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	0	1	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	1	1	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	1	1	2	1	0	1
Accidents	3	2	5	3	4	7
Suicide	2	0	2	0	2	2
All Other Causes	6	3	9	5	5	10
Totals ...	56	44	100	60	56	116

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford, Luton and Oxford. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council. An Ambulance Station with three Ambulances, two Sitting Case Cars and two Buses has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents.

3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: Weekly clinics were held in the Clinic in Bletchley Road and fortnightly clinics in St. Mary's Parish Hall. The voluntary committees and health visitors attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. The total number of attendances during the year by children was 2,228.

The ladies of the voluntary committees have again to be thanked for giving so much of their time to this work.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly at the Clinic, Bletchley Road.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This Clinic, which is under the aegis of the British Red Cross Society performed another year of excellent service to the public.

(d) Ophthalmic Clinic: An ophthalmic surgeon and an orthoptist hold weekly clinics at Bletchley Road. In addition there is a special session on the first Saturday of each month for school children.

(e) Dermatological Clinic: A specialist in skin diseases attends twice monthly.

(f) Dental Clinic: This clinic continues to do very good work amongst the school children. A full time dental surgeon attends.

(g) Toddlers' Clinic: Due to increased work at the Child Welfare Clinic a special clinic was instituted for the toddlers. This is held on the fourth Friday of each month.

(h) Health Visiting: Three whole time Health Visitors have been appointed to the Bletchley area and they are doing excellent work.

(i) Speech Therapy: A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing very excellent work among school children.

(j) Care of the Blind: The Home Teacher for the Blind has her headquarters at Bletchley Road Clinic, and attends there weekly.

(k) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic: Weekly sessions are held and are attended by a specialist from Aylesbury.

All of these services, except Physiotherapy, are administered by the County Health Department, the Regional Hospital Board, or both, and all are housed in the Bletchley Road building which was originally intended as a School Clinic and Child Welfare Clinic only.

There is still no sign of Bletchley's Diagnostic Centre, but it is understood that the Regional Hospital Board are really making a move at last, and the hopes expressed in my 1957 report may soon be realized.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals served the area :—

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Bedford General Hospital
Creaton Sanatorium
London Hospitals
Northampton General
Royal Bucks Hospital
St. John's Hospital, Stone
Slade Hospital, Oxford
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Tindal General Hospital

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service has been recently reorganised and a full-time domestic help organiser and an assistant have been appointed to cover the North Bucks area. The domestic help organiser herself controls Bletchley and surrounding districts.

This service is doing excellent work particularly amongst the aged and chronic sick. One hundred and fifty-eight cases were helped during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER.

A pure and wholesome supply has been maintained throughout the district since the completion of the filtration plant in 1956.

Bacteriological samples were taken at various times and places, a typical result is given below.

From tap in :

1.	New house, Whaddon Way	No coliform bacilli
2.	Old premises, Park Street	,, ,, ,,
3.	Shop, Aylesbury Street	,, ,, ,,
4.	Old house, Water Eaton	,, ,, ,,

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AFTER TREATMENT

	Parts per million		
Suspended Solids	Nil	Oxygen consumed from Permanganate	0.032
Dissolved Solids	238.4	PH Value	7.77
Iron (as Fe)	.32	Temporary hardness	11.59
Chloride (as Cl_2)	15.5	Permanent hardness	6.14
Free Ammonia	0.012	Free CO_2	3.2
Albuminoid Ammonia	.024		
Nitrate (as N_2)	Nil		
Nitrite	Nil		

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewage works has functioned satisfactorily. Sludge is now disposed of by motor tanker to nearby farms. Smells from the sludge drying beds were the cause of some complaints and an industrial deodoriser is now in use.

The Council is considering the installation of plant to compost sewage sludge and house refuse.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Inspections are made of the few watercourses and ditches in the district to detect any pollution. No flooding has taken place.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few houses in Drayton Road and elsewhere in isolated places are still without main drainage. It is hoped to extend the sewer in Drayton Road if there is further private development.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly refuse collection is maintained in the district. Two large capacity closed vehicles are used in place of the old side-loaders.

Controlled tipping has been carried out at a site adjoining the sewage works. This is now closed and the new tip near Salden Wood has been brought into use.

F. SHOPS ACT

No contraventions were noted.

G. MARKET

A weekly cattle and general market is held. Regular visits were paid, particular attention was required at food stalls. A new covered market is now open and food stalls will be sited under cover.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaints were received during the year.

I. SWIMMING POOL

A new Swimming Pool with a plastic lining was brought into use during the year and was patronised by some 30,000 people during the season.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

The continuing expansion of the town has again been the main work of the surveying and engineering staff.

Water supply, sewerage and refuse disposal have been mentioned earlier in this report.

General public health duties relating to housing, building inspection, food hygiene, pest control, etc., have been carried out by Mr. N. J. Adams. Other departments connected with the well-being of the community are Works and Highways (Mr. G. Heap) and the two sections of the Housing Department, Housing Officer, Mr. T. Holderness, Housing Repairs Supervisor, Mr. L. H. Randall.

One hundred and sixty-nine Council dwellings and sixty-six private dwellings were completed during 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN 1958

Public Health and Housing Acts	624	Factories Act	24
Building Byelaws	411	Drainage	32
Food and Drugs Act	193	Refuse disposal	28
Food Inspection	40	Rodent control	29
Ice cream premises	28	Infectious diseases	7
Butchers' premises	46	Petroleum Acts	34
Slaughterhouse	47	Interviews	93
		Total visits	1636

SECTION D

HOUSING

Demolition of unfit houses, started in 1957, was continued and twenty-two houses were demolished. A further twenty unfit houses are still occupied and it is planned to re-house the tenants, mainly elderly, in new bungalows in the same area. Work has already begun on the layout of these bungalows which should be ready in 1959.

The Rent Act has not caused any great increase in complaints but there are still many houses in the district that require modernisation. These houses although structurally sound are without bathrooms and other amenities. Such houses should not be allowed to deteriorate until they are beyond repair.

The advent of the new Housing Improvement Bill now in Parliament should be of great benefit in helping landlord and tenant to add such amenities to their properties.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number inspected and revisited under Public Health and Housing Acts	624
Houses unfit for habitation and due for clearance	20
Houses not in all respects fit where notices were served ...	17
Houses rendered fit by informal action	50
Statutory notices issued	Nil
Houses closed or subject to agreement not to re-let	Nil

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SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. TYPES AND NUMBERS OF FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	13	Cafes	4
Fish Shops	5	Public Houses	21
Bakeries	2	Milk Retailers	6
General Food Shops ...	39		

2. Number of registered premises (ice-cream, sausages, cooked meat) 43

3. One hundred and ninety-three inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises. Food condemned in 1958 amounted to 571 lbs. This was disposed of by tipping at the Council's site with other refuse.

4. ICE CREAM. Heat treatment.

There are no manufacturers in the district using heat treatment.

There is one small private business and a large distribution depot in the district.

Twenty-eight visits to shops selling ice cream were made.

Eight samples were taken, all of which were placed in Grade 1 by the Bedford Public Health Laboratory.

5. FOOD HYGIENE

Further improvements were made in several food premises and it is pleasing to record no cases of food poisoning. There is room for much more progress in this respect particularly in the disposal and storage of trade refuse from food premises.

6. MEAT

Only one private slaughterhouse is licensed and serves for the trade of one butcher. All other meat is brought in from large centres such as London, Luton and Northampton.

Regular inspections of animals slaughtered in the year are detailed overleaf.

SECTION F

FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION G: OTHER DUTIES

RODENT. The joint area comprising Bletchley U.D.C. and Newport U.D.C. and R.D.C. has dealt with all complaints of rats and mice Two men using one vehicle are employed.

PETROLEUM. Thirty-six premises are licensed to store petroleum mixtures ranging from small quantities of cellulose to thousands of gallons of petrol at filling stations. Further regulations coming into force in 1960 will require considerable attention by the local authority and the trade.

SECTION H

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL.

There was a large and prolonged epidemic of measles during the last three months of the year in which nearly 700 cases were notified, mainly in the age group four to eight years.

2. NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	702	Pneumonia	3
Whooping Cough ...	6	Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	17		

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Four new cases notified and eight inward transfers to the district. Four persons recovered and are removed from the register. There were five deaths.

4. CANCER

There were 23 deaths from this disease during the year, compared with 21 in 1957 and 12 in 1956.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Horses*
Number killed (if known)	85	—	9	320	154	—
Number inspected ...	85	—	9	320	154	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	—	—	13	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	10%	—	—	—	9%	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	—	—	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5%	—	—	—	8%	—
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—